

You Say You Are With Us. How?
Exodus 19:1-25

I. Wedding Day Weirdness

A. Anticipation and Weirdness

B. The Point to Remember: Every scene answers a single question

1. Who is the LORD (who is Yahweh) that I should obey Him?
2. The most repeated motive God offers for what He says and does is that Egypt, Israel, and the nations of the world will “know that I AM the LORD!”
 - a. This scenario reveals something of the Person and nature of Almighty God;
 - b. God reveals something of Himself to the people whom He loves, to whom He is giving His name.

II. What God reveals about Himself

A. His goal for His people is relationship. (19:1-8)

1. **Exodus 19:4-6 (ESV)** ⁴ *You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.* ⁵ *Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine;* ⁶ *and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”*
2. Don’t miss the word “treasured”
 - a. The Egyptians were the possessions of their gods,
 - (1) They served their gods
 - (2) They worshiped their gods
 - (3) They trusted their gods
 - (4) but clearly they were not treasured by their non-existent gods
 - b. “Peculiar” “Special” “of unique value among all that I love”
 - c. God’s expressed will is for a deep, honest, genuine relationship of the heart with His people

B. His nature sets limits for the relationship (19:9-15)

1. That relationship cannot be fully accomplished with us in our natural state
2. Exodus 19:12 (ESV) *And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, ‘Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death.*
3. The reason?
 - a. God’s holiness so exceeds our sinfulness that to see Him would mean instantaneous application of His justice: death
 - b. Moses asks to see God’s glory:
 - (1) **Exodus 33:18-20 (ESV)** ¹⁸ *Moses said, “Please show me your glory.”*
 - (2) ¹⁹ *And he said, “I will make all my goodness pass before*

you and will proclaim before you my name 'The LORD.' And I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. ²⁰ But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live."

C. His compassion reinforces His commandments (19:16-25)

1. God's warnings indicate His compassion

III. How God releases the limit on the mountain

A. Psalm 15: Who shall dwell in your holy hill?

1. The person who is like this:
 - a. Blameless walk
 - b. Does what is right
 - c. Speaks truth in his heart
 - d. Does not slander with his tongue
 - e. Does no evil to his neighbor
 - f. Takes up no reproach against his friend
 - g. Despises evil
 - h. Honors those who fear the LORD
 - i. Maintains his integrity even when it hurts
 - j. Lends graciously
 - k. Takes no bribe against the innocent
2. Sounds like this person:
 - a. **Matthew 22:34–40 (ESV) 34** *But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. 35* *And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. 36* *"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" 37* *And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38* *This is the great and first commandment. 39* *And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. 40* *On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."*
 - b. The One Person who can dwell in God's holy hill is the One Person who shares all of God's glory and perfections: Jesus!

B. How does God in Christ bridge the gap between His glory and our sin?

1. God becomes man, the man Jesus Christ, fully human fully God,
 - a. He embraces every extent of the glory of God with every essence of His being
 - b. He offers Himself, the perfect human, as the perfect substitute for every sinful human being
 - (1) **Colossians 2:13–14 (ESV) 13** *And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14* *by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.*
 - (2) Christ completely satisfies the requirement of divine justice

2. God offers the cross as the bridge between Himself and His beloved by which they may come to Him.
- a. Only Christ has the right to stand on the mountain of God
 - b. You do not have the right, but you have Christ!
 - (1) **1 Peter 2:4–5 (ESV) 4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**
 - (2) **Hebrews 12:18–29 (ESV) 18 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest 19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. 20 For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned.” 21 Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.” 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, 23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.**
 - 25 See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.” 27 This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.
 - (a) Jesus is a better mediator than Moses
 - (b) If they would not escape death at Moses’ warning, how much more should the warning of Christ be heeded in our day.
 - (c) Therefore let us worship in spirit and in faith
 - (d) Because our God remains what He has always been, a holy God, whose glory consumes and destroys all

unholiness.

3. **Come to the Cross**

- a. Jesus said, I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No man comes of the Father but through me.”
- b. The only way to God, to the relationship with Him that heals the heart and restores the soul is through faith in Jesus and His death on the cross.
- c. The cross
 - (1) reveals the love of God for you and the justice of God against sin
 - (a) **Romans 5:8-9 (ESV)** ⁸ *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* ⁹ *Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.*
 - (2) reconciles man with God
 - (a) **Colossians 1:20 (ESV)** *and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*
 - (b) Christ took our sins upon Himself, He bore our sins in His body, He paid for our sins with His death and doing so removed the obstacle of sin and guilt that keeps us from the Father
 - (3) redirects the heart’s affections from self to God
 - (a) **Galatians 6:14 (ESV)** *But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*
 - (4) rebuts self-effort
 - (a) **Romans 3:21-25 (ESV)** ²¹ *But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—* ²² *the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith.*

4. **The Message of God on the Mountain:**

- a. You cannot come to me as you are
- b. So come to me through the cross